

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

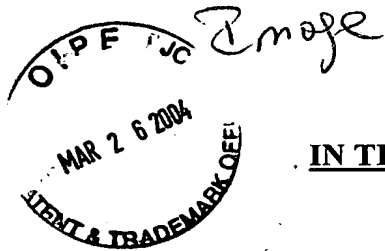
<b>In re U.S. Patent Application of</b>	)	
	)	
<b>OKANO et al.</b>	)	
	)	<b>Art Unit 1723</b>
<b>Application Number: 10/018,430</b>	)	
	)	<b>Examiner:</b>
<b>Filed: December 20, 2001</b>	)	<b>Drodge, Joseph W.</b>
	)	
<b>For: CENTRIFUGAL SEPARATOR AND SAMPLE</b>	)	
<b>PREPARATION DEVICE USING THE SEPARATOR</b>	)	
	)	
<b>ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NITT.0050</b>	)	

**Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**

**RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111**

Sir:

This is in response to the office action dated February 27, 2004, in the above identified application, the period for response is set to expire on May 27, 2004. Please amend the above identified application as follows:



AF

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In re U.S. Patent Application of )

OKANO et al. )

Application Number: 10/018,430 )

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For: CENTRIFUGAL SEPARATOR AND SAMPLE )  
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ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. NITT.0050 )

Art Unit 1723

Examiner:  
Drodge, Joseph W.Honorable Assistant Commissioner  
for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231**COVER LETTER**

Sir:

☒ The fee for submission of claims is calculated as shown below:

FOR	TOTAL WITH NEW CLAIMS ADDED	TOTAL CURRENTLY ON FILE	CLAIMS PAID	RATE	CALCULATION
Total Claims	16	50	32 (Over 20)	x \$18	0.00
Independent Claims	6	18	15 (Over 3)	x \$86	0.00
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S)				+ \$290	0
REDUCTION FOR FILING BY SMALL ENTITY (note 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.9, 1.27, 1.28). IF APPLICABLE, VERIFIED STATEMENT MUST BE ATTACHED				x ½	
				TOTAL	0.00

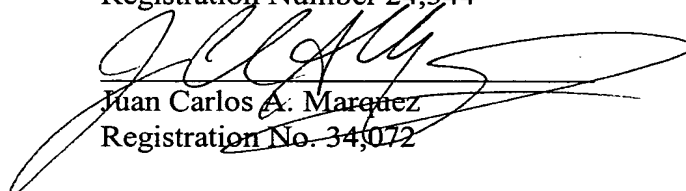
In addition, the below-identified communications are submitted in the above-captioned application or proceeding:

☒ Response to Office Action  
(with Claim Amendments)☐ Letter to Draftsperson☐ Preliminary Amendment☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_☐ Substitute Specification and Marked up copy☐ Terminal Disclaimer☐ Petition under \_\_\_\_\_☐ Assignment

- [ ] Please charge my **Deposit Account Number** \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the fees for \_\_\_\_\_. A duplicate copy of this paper is enclosed.
- [ ] A check in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the fee is enclosed.
- [x] The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment to **Deposit Account Number 08-1480**.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
Stanley P. Fisher  
Registration Number 24,344

  
Juan Carlos A. Marquez  
Registration No. 34,072

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**March 26, 2004**